Message Text

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USDOC FOR CAGNE, DEP. GEN. COUNSEL MOYER, DEP. ASST. SEC'Y MARCUSS

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: ETRD, LE

SUBJECT: BOYCOTT QUERY

REF: (A) STATE 142390, (B) STATE 197340

1. EMBASSY E/C OFFICER, DURING COURTESY CALL ON CHAIRMAN LEBANESE BANKERS' ASSOCIATION ASSAAD SAWAYA, RECEIVED QUERY RE NEW U.S. ANTI-BOYCOTT LEGISLATION. SPECIAL QUESTION CONCERNED STANDARD BANK DOCUMENTARY CREDIT FORM WHICH REQUIRES PARTY COMPLETING THE FORM TO PROVIDE USUAL SET OF ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTS (E.G. BILLS OF LADING, COMMERCIAL INVOICE, INSURANCE CERTIFICATE, CERTIFICATE OF ORIGIN, WEIGHT NOTE) PLUS THE FOLLOWING: QUOTE CERTIFICATE (SEPARATE OR INCORPORATED INTO THE BILLS OF LADING) TESTIFYING THAT THE CARRYING VESSEL IS NOT ISRAEL OWNED OR BALCKLISTED BY THE ISRAEL BOYCOTT OFFICE OR CALLING AT PORTS IN SIRAEL UNQUOTE. CHAIRMAN SAWAYA ASKED HOW NEW U.S. LEGISLATION WOULD AFFECT THE QUOTED LANGUAGE AND HOW LANGUAGE MIGHT BE CHANGED TO COMPLY WITH U.S. LAW.

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2. EMBASSY OFFICER UNDERTOOK TO LOOK INTO THE MATTER AND REMINDED SAWAYA THAT NEW LEGISLATION CURRENTLY AWAITS IMPLEMENTING REGULATIONS THAT WILL SPECIFY ITS APPLICATION AND WILL CLARIFY AMBIGUITIES REGARDING HOW ONE OR ANOTHER HYPOTHETICAL CIRCUMSTANCE MIGHT BE TREATED. SAWAYS EXPRESSED HIS HOPE THAT LANGUAGE IN QUESTION COULD BE MODIFIED TO SATISFY BOTH LEGAL AND COMMERCIAL INTERESTS

OF TRADING NATIONS.

3. EMBASSY INTENDS FOLLOW UP BY PROVIDING SAWAYA IN HAND-OUT FROM SUBSTANCE PARAGRAPH 6 OF STATE 142390 WITH COPY OF ARTICLE TITLED "ANTI-BOYCOTT RULES STRENGTHENED" FROM COMMERCE AMERICA, JUNE 20, 1977 WHICH CONTAINS TEXT OF NEW LAW. AS FOR QUESTION HOW LANGUAGE MIGHT BE REFORMULATED TO COMPLY WITH LAW, WE PLAN NO DIRECT RESPONSE BUT WOULD FOREWARN UPCOMING COMMERCE/STATE DELEGATION THAT EVEN PRAGMATISTS SUCH AS SAWAYA WILL MAKE POINT OF ASKING DELEGATION IN EFFECT TO REDRAFT THIS LANGUAGE FOR THEM IN SUCH MANNER AS TO COMPLY WITH BOTH SECTION 4A(A)(1)(D) AND EXCEPTIONS IN 4A(A)(2) OF THE LAW.

4. EMBASSY WISHES THANK NEA/RA MORRISON FOR TWO HIGHLY USEFUL PACKAGES BOYCOTT MATERIALS WHICH SUPPORT OTHER DEPT. GUIDANCE RE PRESENTING BOYCOTT ISSUE TO LOCAL COMMUNITY. REPLY TO STATE 197340 FOLLOWS BY SEPTEL.

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